

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE
MARGARET AZEVEDO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Ms. Margaret Azevedo. Margaret Azevedo, a long-time progressive in Marin County, exemplified the very best in public service to our community. During her 45 years of activism, Margaret was known for her thorough and balanced approach to preserving our environment. Her tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Marin and their quality of life earned her the respect and admiration of all who knew her.

As a member of many organizations including the Marin County Planning Commission, the North Central Regional Coastal Commission, the Coastal Conservancy, the Bay Area Transportation Study Commission, the Association of Bay Area Government's Housing Task Force, the League of Women Voters, the Marin Council for Civic Affairs and the Point Reyes National Seashore Foundation Margaret worked endlessly to enhance the long-term health of the Northbay community. She was known for her breadth of knowledge as well as a keen sense of humor.

Margaret Azevedo is credited with preserving 240,200 acres of open space as well as playing a major role in the establishment of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Richardson Bay Audubon Sanctuary. Her numerous awards—such as the San Francisco Examiner's 10 most distinguished women of the Bay Area, Marin Women's Hall of Fame and the League of Women Voters' Bunny Lucheta Award for Outstanding Public Service in Marin County—are a testament to the success of her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Margaret's death in December 2000, leaves a void in Marin that will be impossible to fill as well as a legacy that demonstrates the value of an individual's dedication to preserving and bettering our environment and our world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ABEL AND
MARY NICHOLSON HOUSE NATIONAL
HISTORIC SITE STUDY
ACT

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce H.R. 793, the Abel and Mary Nicholson House Historic Site Study Act. This bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Abel and Mary Nicholson House, located in Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New Jersey, in my congressional district, as a unit of the National Park System. As part of the study the Secretary would also be required to consider management alternatives to create an administrative association with the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route. This

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

study is the required first step in designating the site as a national park.

The Abel and Mary Nicholson House was built in 1722 and is a rare surviving example of an unaltered early 18th century patterned brick building. The original portion of the house has existed for 280 years with only routine maintenance. This house is a unique resource which can provide significant opportunities for studying our nation's history and development.

I was pleased to announce the designation of this house as a National Historic Landmark on March 1, 2000, which made it the first National Historic Landmark site in Salem or Gloucester Counties, in New Jersey. The U.S. Department of the Interior designated the Nicholson House as a National Historic Landmark because of its historical importance to the entire nation and listed it in the National Register of Historic Places.

As one of the most significant "first period" houses surviving in the Delaware Valley, the Nicholson House represents a piece of history from both Southern New Jersey and early American life, and should remain protected and preserved to continue as a valuable teaching tool for generations to come.

SAINT ISIDORE SCHOOL
CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, today I give recognition to St. Isidore School in Grand Rapids, Michigan for its 100 years of service to the Grand Rapids community. Founded by Polish immigrants, the school opened its doors to 144 students on January 2, 1901, in a northeastside building that served as a combination school, church, and convent. Since the ringing of the first bell in 1901, the school has served as an excellent example of families committed to providing their children with a positive Catholic school experience.

St. Isidore School, originally the city's East Side Polish parish school, has been through many changes over the years and has grown into a cosmopolitan school. The current facility on Spring Avenue was built in 1926 and in recent years has housed an average of 140 students in grades K-8. The record year was 1927 when the pupil count swelled to 920 students. During a 20 year period from 1927 thru 1947 St. Isidore's also opened its doors to ninth grade students.

During its 100 year existence, St. Isidore's has served as the starting point for numerous young men and women who have gone on to very challenging and successful careers. Graduates of the school have become priests, sisters, doctors, nurses, attorneys, engineers, accountants, teachers, administrators, elected officials, and good loyal employees of the many industries in the West Michigan area.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely delighted to take this time to pay tribute to this superb school that has played a vital role in our city's history. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the efforts and commitment of the staff

and students who have called St. Isidore home over the past 100 years. Their dedication to learning and excellence is a model for others to follow. Congratulations! May God also bless you for your next 100 years!

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCOTT VFW POST 4183

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 50th anniversary of the Scott Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4183 in Belleville, Illinois.

The Veteran's of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States traces its roots back to 1899. That year, veterans of both the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their veterans. In Columbus, Ohio, Spanish-American War veterans founded the American Veterans of Foreign Service and in Denver, Colorado, Philippine veterans organized the Colorado Society, Army of the Philippines. In 1913, both organizations merged to form the present Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

The VFW is known the world over for their service not only to veterans, but to all people. They are considered to be one of the most influential forces in the halls of Congress. The efforts of the VFW resulted in the creation of the House Veteran's Committee, the WW 1 bonus, the national Veteran's Day holiday, various GI bills, the creation of a cabinet level office of Veteran's Affairs and support on many veteran's health issues. The VFW is active in disaster relief and also provides information to citizens about our national flag. You cannot also mention the VFW without mentioning their "buddy poppy" program which raises funds for veteran's homes.

The Scott VFW Post 4183 was chartered in 1951 with 88 members and was named the Loren Howerth VFW Post. Their first meetings were held in the basement of the P-3 Building at Scott Air Force base. In 1970, the post was renamed for Frederick M. Kocher, the commander largely responsible for re-energizing the post's efforts in reaching membership goals. Commander Kocher was also responsible for providing a commitment to service to those veterans who served their country. In the 80's, the Post took on its present designation as the Scott VFW Post 4183.

The Post's present location on 3½ acres used to be a farmhouse that still remains as part of the Post complex. Additions to the farmhouse over the years were the inclusion of a bingo and meeting hall in 1954 and a building addition in 1986. Located just outside the Belleville Gate of Scott Air Force Base, VFW Post 4183 relies on base personnel for the majority of its membership. Currently, the Post has 446 members, residing in 35 different states and five foreign countries. Two hundred and forty of these Post members are considered life members and the membership roll includes a Pearl Harbor Veteran and a WW II Flying Sergeant. The majority of the

membership are veterans from Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

Post 4183 was the first VFW post in the United States to sponsor a perpetual scholarship for the VFW National Voice of Democracy program. This program allows high school students to participate in patriotic programs and the opportunity to earn awards and scholarships. The Post actively supports area veterans, as well as the Scott Air Force Base Elementary School, the Scott Chief's Group, the Family Support Center and the Scott Officer's Wives Club. The Post also works with local Cub Scouts, high schools, Special Olympics, the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, East St. Louis Christmas Food Drives and area VA hospitals and the VFW National Home in Michigan. Post 4183 has the distinct honor of being named an "All State Post" nine times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the men and women of Scott VFW Post 4183 both past and present on fifty years of serving veterans and the people of Southwestern Illinois.

**IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF AND
COST EFFICIENCY OF MEDICARE
SYSTEM: SUPPORT REIMBURSE-
MENT FOR CERTIFIED REG-
ISTERED NURSE FIRST ASSIST-
ANTS**

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Medicare Certified Registered Nurse First Assistant (CRNFA) Direct Reimbursement Act of 2001, which will provide equity in reimbursement for certified registered nurse first assistants who provide surgical first assisting services to Medicare patients. I introduced this legislation in the 106th Congress and am grateful that, last year, the Congress asked the General Accounting Office to study the issue and report within a year on the quality of care and cost effectiveness provided by CRNFAs. While I deeply appreciate this support, I also believe it is important to continue this effort on behalf of CRNFAs and am grateful for the fifteen colleagues that have agreed to rejoin me in this effort as original cosponsors of this legislation.

Having received more advanced education and training in first assisting than any other nonphysician provider, CRNFAs serve a vital role, directly assisting physicians with surgical procedures. Additionally, CRNFAs and RNFA's are the only providers—aside from the rare physician making house calls—who sometimes provide post-operative care by actually visiting patients at home following surgery. Thus, not only do CRNFAs have more clinical experience and education than other non-physician providers, but they also provide continuity of care to patients enabling higher quality and better patient outcomes.

CRNFAs also provide the additional benefit of cost efficiency. Health claims data from the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) reveal that physicians file more than 90% of the first assistant at surgery claims for Medi-

care reimbursement. Physicians receive 16 percent of the surgeon's fee for serving as a surgical first assistant. Under this legislation, CRNFAs will receive only 13.6 percent of the surgeon's fee for providing first assistant services. Furthermore, CRNFAs are equally as cost-effective as other non-physician first assisting providers who currently are reimbursed at 13.6 percent of the surgeon's fee for first assisting. Use of CRNFAs would, therefore, be a high quality yet cost-effective alternative for the nation's health care delivery system, affording additional flexibility to surgeons, hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) and its president, Brenda C. Ulmer, RN, MN, CNOR, in bringing this issue forward. I also thank the nurses of AORN for contacting their Representatives regarding this important bill; their help has been indispensable. As a provider of health care, the CRNFA is a viable solution for controlling rising health care costs. Working in collaborative practice with surgeons, CRNFAs are cost-effective to the patient and to the health care delivery system. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting equity for certified registered nurse first assistants by cosponsoring the Medicare Certified Registered Nurse First Assistant Direct Reimbursement Act of 2001.

**TRIBUTE TO RABBI HILLEL COHN,
ON THE EVENT OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT**

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this June, Rabbi Hillel Cohn will be retiring from Congregation Emanu El, in San Bernardino, after 38 years of service, having served the Congregation since 1963.

Rabbi Cohn is one of the leading citizens of the San Bernardino area. He is known throughout the nation for his outstanding sermons and his work as a fine educator, counselor and community leader.

He is known for inspiring and creative sermons, including ones that reference Bob Dylan and the Genetic Code.

I have been privileged to know Rabbi Cohn, and have found him to be a mentor, a scholar, and an inspirational man.

I have been pleased to know his family, including his nephew, Mike Steinman, who served the people of the State of California as a Legislative Aide on my staff in Sacramento.

I have had the pleasure of working with Rabbi Cohn on religious issues, and keeping him advised on the progress of legislation, including the Religious Freedom Protection Act, which I authored in California.

Rabbi Cohn is part of a remarkable history of wise and gifted rabbis who have presided over Congregation Emanu El. The Congregation and the San Bernardino Jewish Community trace their history back to the early 1850's, when the first Jewish Settlers came to Southern California. The first Jewish commu-

nity established in Southern California was in San Bernardino, and services began to be held in the 1850's, with the congregation formally being chartered in 1891.

Under Rabbi Cohn, the congregation has risen to great levels of prominence, winning national awards for the excellence of its Jewish Education program. The Congregation also operates a nationally-recognized pre-school and elementary school.

I am very pleased to have worked with Rabbi Cohn over the years, and wish him many years of blessed retirement. I am sure he will continue to grace the San Bernardino community with his scholarship and learning for many years to come. I offer my best wishes to him and his family on this occasion.

IN HONOR OF EDWIN J.
KORCZYNSKI

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2001

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, a decade ago, the people of the United States asked the brave men and women of our armed forces to take up an important cause in the Persian Gulf. Today, I rise to salute the achievements of a resident of my congressional district, Mr. Edwin J. "Ski" Korczynski, and to commemorate his important contributions.

Edwin was an America West Airline pilot when he served as a volunteer in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, completing numerous missions in the Civil Reserve Air Fleet and Military Airlift Command operation, where civilian airliners were used for lift capability. As a pilot and flight engineer attached to the Military Airlift Command located at Scott Air Force Base, Korczynski helped transport military personnel and supplies vital to the Kuwaiti liberation effort. For his efforts, Pilot Korczynski was awarded the Civilian Desert Shield and Desert Storm medal for Outstanding Achievement as a Pilot/Flight Engineer flying CRAF/MAC missions. Although he is an honorably discharged United States Marine, Korczynski was not an activated reservist during this conflict, but was instead a volunteer committed to the cause.

The five daughters of what is known as the "Korczynski Krew"; Ediane M. Ayers, Kimberly A. Boersma, Elizabeth A. Haak, Bethany A. Korczynski, and Megan M. Korczynski, are understandably proud of their father, as he is of them. As they go about their daily lives in this great nation, they are thankful for the service of their father and his colleagues and comrades who have served in the uniform of this nation's armed services. It is particularly their father's willingness to volunteer which they know is so important to the fabric of our neighborhoods and is an example which is important whether in military service or community service.

Though it has been a decade since those operations in the Persian Gulf, Edwin Korczynski continues to volunteer his time and energy, first as Squadron Commander, United States Air Force/Civil Air Patrol/Lake in the Hills Composite Squadron/IL #482. He is also